

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Granada Theater

and/or common Fox Theater

2. Location

street & number 809 Commercial

N/A not for publication

city, town Emporia

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Lyon

code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Strand Theater Corporation

street & number 4 Hillcrest Ave.

city, town Wichita

N/A vicinity of

state KS 67208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Lyon County Courthouse

city, town Emporia

state KS 66801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1969

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th St.

city, town Topeka

state KS 66612

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Granada Theater was built in 1929 in an imaginative variation of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style. It occupies three lots in a downtown commercial block and directly abuts commercial buildings on both sides. It faces east on Commercial Street, which is the main north-south business street in Emporia.

The building is of masonry construction on a concrete and steel frame. The side party walls and rear wall are brick. The front (east) facade is faced with stucco.

The facade is symmetrical, consisting of a square central section flanked by two slightly-projecting tower-like end blocks. In the center of the facade at first-floor level is a set of three glass double doors which form the entrance to the theater. The doors are metal-framed replacements; the originals are believed to have been wood-framed. Directly above these doors is a marquee, also a recent replacement. On either side of the doors is a small commercial shop, the entrance to which is in a tiny shopfront in the base of each tower block.

Above the marquee is a set of four narrow, round-arched windows, separated by engaged Moorish columns and surmounted by a tile-trimmed hood decorated with terra cotta figurines of clowns. On either side is a small window covered by a diagonal trellis flush with the wall. In the upper wall of the central section are three tiny, octagonal windows with crossed metal bars. Over these is an arcaded corbel-table cornice and a false roof of ceramic tile. Above the entrance of each tower block is a decorative terra cotta scrollwork surmounted by a rectangular window covered with decorative iron grillwork. Above this is a small decorative window. At the top of each side block is a terra cotta niche lushly decorated in a Spanish Baroque manner. The tower blocks are gable-fronted and roofed with red tile.

The entrance opens into a square, tile-floored vestibule, in the center of which is a ticket booth with tiled walls. The ceiling of the vestibule has richly decorated plasterwork in an Arabesque pattern. Beyond the vestibule is the main lobby. The concession stand which now opens into the lobby is a later addition. From the lobby corridors open into the main paraquet. Stairs at each end of the main lobby lead to the second floor, which contains restrooms, an office, an upper lobby, and access to the theater balcony.

The theater auditorium contains several decorative niches along the walls, adorned with Arabesque plasterwork. The proscenium arch no longer exists, having been damaged in a fire in 1959 which also destroyed the theater organ. What remains of the proscenium has been refaced with brick, and covered up by a movie screen and new screen curtains. Behind this, however, the stage is still intact, although its curtain apparatus and fly were destroyed in the fire. The dressing room area beneath the stage is still intact also.

While there have been appreciable losses of historical integrity on both the interior and exterior of the theater, enough significant features remain intact for its character to be readily apparent.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929

Builder/Architect Boller Brothers, Kansas City, MO

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Granada Theater has local architectural significance as the most elaborate example of early twentieth century theater architecture in the Emporia area. Built in 1929, the theater was planned by Boller Brothers, a prominent architectural firm of Kansas City, MO, that specialized in theater design. The theater is one of the better surviving examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Eastern Kansas.

The Granada was constructed during a major period of growth for the city of Emporia. Several other prominent downtown buildings were erected about the same time, including the Kress Building (listed on the National Register), the F.W. Woolworth Building, the Burnap Building, and the Mutual Savings and Loan Company Building.

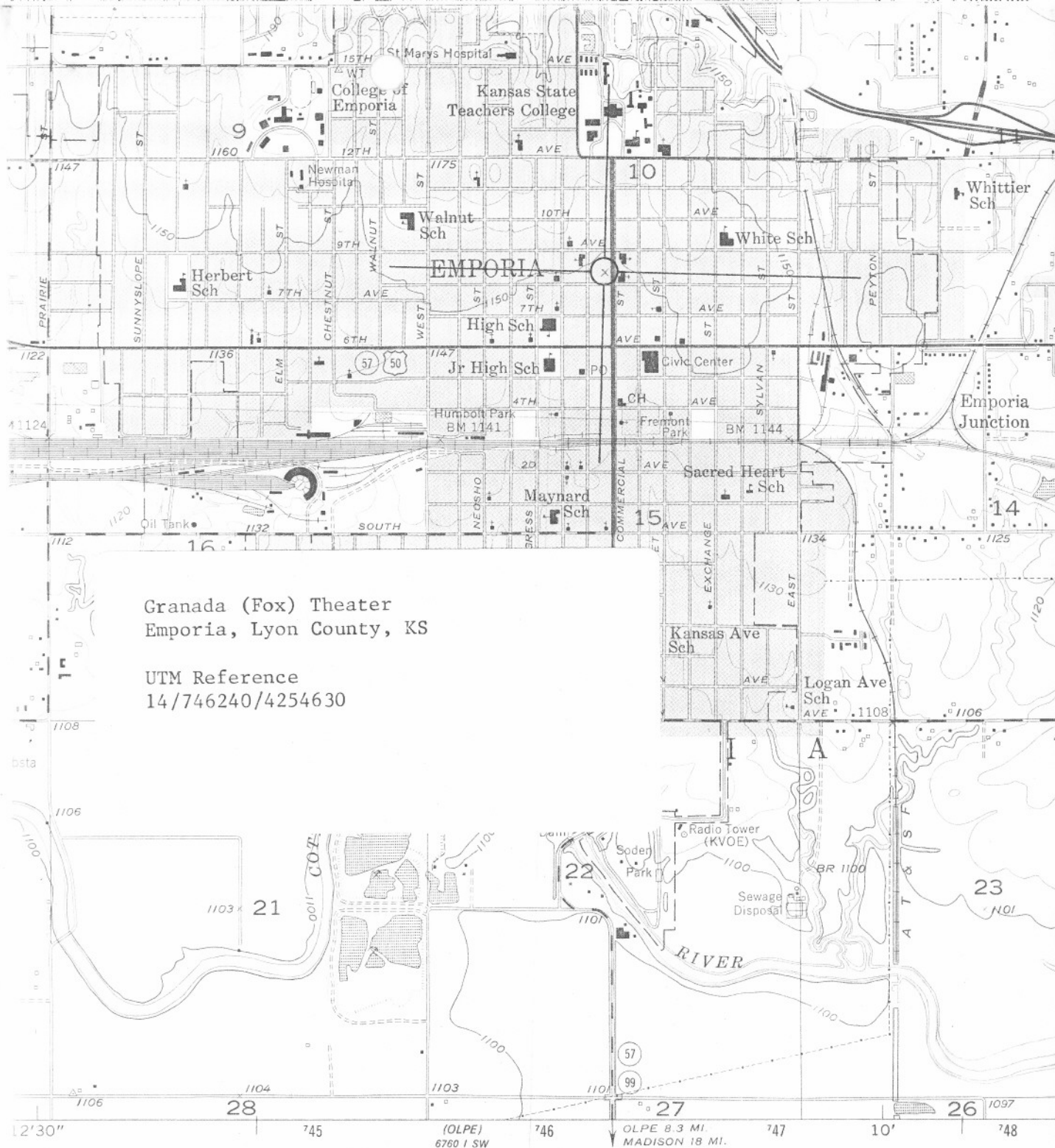
The Granada was the most elaborate of a succession of theaters and opera houses that had been built in Emporia, including the Electric, the Strand, and the Royal. It was used for both motion pictures and live entertainment.

In 1936 one of the city's first large central air conditioning systems was installed in the Granada. It operated by blowing air past tubes filled with ice water, and required daily loads of up to five tons of ice.

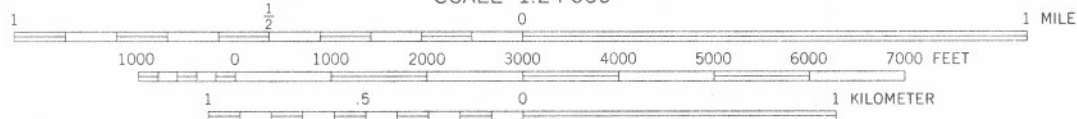
In 1959 a fire broke out in the theater organ, destroying it and much of the stage equipment. Afterwards the theater was used only for motion pictures.

Theater revenues declined in the 1970s and finally prompted the closing of the Granada, by this time known as the Fox Theater, in 1982. Proposals have been made recently for reviving the theater for use as a community center for the arts, but no definitive decision has been made.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AS IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

9. Major Bibliographical References

Emporia Gazette: June 20, 1929; October, 1929; April 24, 1935; August 9, 1935;
February 19, 1938; October 3, 1939; February 24, 1940.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Emporia, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4
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7	4	6	2	4	0
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4	2	5	4	6	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 5, 7 and 9 of the Washington Park addition, City of Emporia, KS.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date February 21, 1985

street & number 120 West 10th Street

telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state KS 66612

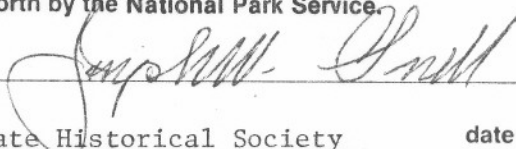
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date February 22, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Granada (Fox) Theater
Emporia, Lyon County, KS
Photo by Richard J. Cawthon
Kansas State Historical Society
View from northeast
October, 1984
Photo 2 of 3

Granada (Fox) Theater
Emporia, Lyon County, KS
Photo by Richard J. Cawthon
Kansas State Historical Society
Frontal view from east
October, 1984
Photo 1 of 3

Granada (Fox) Theater
Emporia, Lyon County, KS
Photographer unknown
View from southeast
circa 1940
Photo 3 of 3

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES---COVER SHEET

Name of Property Granada TheaterLocation 809 Commercial
(street and number)Emporia
(city, town, or vicinity location)

(legal description)

Lyon
(county)Owner of Property Strand Theater Corp.4 Hillcrest Avenue
(street and number)Wichita, KS 67208
(city, town, county)

National Register status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic
Sites Board of Review November 17, 1984date entered in National Register April 4, 1985

Description: The Granada Theater is a rectangular brick building with a stuccoed street facade executed in an imaginative variation of the Spanish Colonial style. The facade is symmetrical, with a square central section flanked by two slightly-projecting tower-like sections. The central section has an arcaded four-light window, surmounted by terra cotta figurines in the form of clowns. Above them is an arcaded corbel-table cornice and a false roof of ceramic tile. Each of the tower sections has iron grillework on the larger windows and terra cotta ornamentation at the top. The entrance to the theater is in the center, with small commercial spaces opening to the street on either side.


The main floor of the interior contains a vestibule, a corridor-lobby, and the auditorium parquet, beyond which is a large stage. Beneath the stage are dressing rooms. Stairs in the corridor lead to a second story containing a single large balcony, restrooms, an office, and a smoking lobby, above which is projection booth. The stage area and orchestra pit were badly damaged by a fire which destroyed the theater organ and the proscenium arch in 1959.

Significance The Granada Theater is significant primarily for its contributions to the
social and cultural life of Emporia. Built in 1929, is served for many years as a
center for performing arts and public activities, as well as functioning as a motion
picture theater.

It is also significant architecturally, as a good example of the theater architecture
of the 1920s and 30s. Its design shows the popularity of Spanish-inspired architecture
as one of the many exotic styles favored for theaters during the Eclectic period of the
early twentieth century.

Form prepared by Richard J. Cawthon date November 15, 1984

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by the
Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on November 17, 1984
I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.


State Historic Preservation Officer

Nov. 17, 1984
Date